



**For Immediate Release
May 18, 2005**

**Contact: Dave Yonkman
(202) 225-4401**

Hoekstra Statement on Swearing in of DNI Negroponte, Deputy DNI Hayden

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R-MI), Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement upon the swearing in of Ambassador John D. Negroponte and Gen. Michael Hayden to serve as the nation's first Director and Deputy Director of National Intelligence:

“I congratulate Ambassador Negroponte and Gen. Hayden on being sworn in as the nation's first Director and Deputy Director of National Intelligence. They are now positioned to initiate the long-term and difficult process of leading the radical transformation of the U.S. Intelligence Community.

“Ambassador Negroponte and Gen. Hayden are in the unprecedented position of developing a strategic vision for the nation's 15 intelligence agencies. They are charged with creating new dynamics and flexibility among them to enable them to effectively gather and share information on current and developing threats.

“The ability to access the best intelligence available is absolutely necessary to ensure that policymakers receive the information necessary to make the best decisions possible in the effort to counter threats to national security.

“They begin their jobs with the full support of President Bush and the Congress, and I look forward to working with them to implement the reforms spelled out in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*.

“We are committed to providing the necessary resources and oversight to ensure that they are able to carry out the challenging assignment of increasing the safety and security of America.”

The positions of DNI and Deputy DNI were created in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*, which President Bush signed into law in December.